Sale of tobacco products to minors

2565. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the "Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" is more observed in its breach than compliance;

(b) if so, whether action has been initiated against publishing houses and vendors and cigarette companies for violation of this act;

(c) the number of cases registered and action taken thereof, since inception of this act;

(d) whether tobacco products are sold to minors and students at schools with impunity; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The Act is required to be implemented mainly by the State Governments. They have been advised to enforce the provisions of the Act strictly and put in place necessary mechanisms to prevent any violations. Show cause notices have been issued against publishing houses, cigarette companies etc. for certain violations.

Entry of multinational companies in SSI sector

†2566. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that many multinational companies have entered into the small scale industry sector in an irregular and secret manner;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint from the Federation of Small Scale Industries of India requesting for action against these companies and to dereserve the items reserved for the small scale industries; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.